



# Stream Insects and Crustaceans ID Card


Lines under picture indicate the relative size of organisms




**Beetles: Order Coleoptera**  
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " – 1", disk-like oval body with 6 small legs and gill tufts on underside OR small black beetle crawling on streambed OR comma-like brown "crunchy" body with 6 legs on upper 1/3 and possibly gill tuft on back end, OR (miscellaneous body form – rare), somewhat tolerant of impairment



**Midges:**  
**Family Chironomidae**  
 Up to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", distinct head, worm-like segmented body, 2 leg-like projections on each side, often whitish to clear, occasionally bright red, tolerant of impairment



**Black Fly: Family Simuliidae**  
 Up to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", end of body wider (like bowling pin), distinctive head, sucker on end, tolerant of impairment



**Most True Flies:**  
**Order Diptera**  
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " – 2", bodies plump and maggot-like, may have caterpillar like "legs" along body, may have lobes or conical tails on end, tolerant of impairment



**Gilled Snails:**  
**Class Gastropoda**  
 Up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", shell opening covered by a thin plate called an operculum, with helix pointed up shell opens to the right, intolerant of impairment

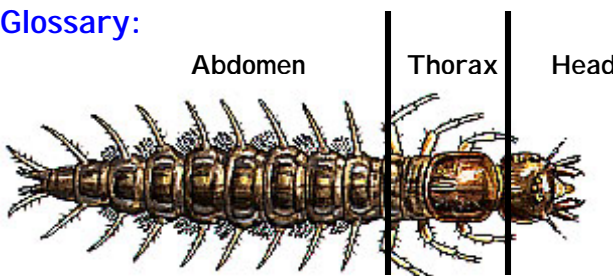


**Lunged Snails:**  
**Class Gastropoda**  
 Up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", no operculum, with helix pointed up shell opens to the left, tolerant of impairment




**Clams:**  
**Class Bivalvia**  
 Up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", fleshy body enclosed between two clamped together shells (if clam is alive, shells cannot be pried apart without harming clam), somewhat tolerant of impairment

**Glossary:**



**Tails:** There are many different kinds of macroinvertebrate tails. The thin thread-like tails found on stoneflies and mayflies are called cerci. The oar-shaped tails found on a damselfly are not really tails - they are actually gills called caudal lamellae!



**VA Save Our Streams Program**  
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These sheets are modified from the National Izaak Walton League of America SOS Program Stream Insects & Crustaceans ID Card.  
<http://www.iwla.org/SOS/index.html>